

essential thing is that the physician gives of his best for the relief of the patient. And now comes the druggist and says that the physician must confine his medicinal treatment of a patient to such things as are ordered through and prepared by the druggist. And further, that he, the untrained druggist without medical knowledge has the right to prescribe over the counter for the sick! No wonder that the N. A. R. D. is in sad straits; no wonder that it is discussing reorganization and such things in order to try and keep itself alive. If all the advice which this sheet has sent to its readers is of the same stripe as the morsel under discussion, its readers must have been urged to many illegal acts and must have been led into a good deal of trouble. This is pretty close to the acme of impertinence.

Comparatively recently two new hospitals have opened in San Francisco; both have been created from the medical profession, but in ways that differ as the day from night. Doubtless none save those who bore the burden can know the work and the strain and the personal sacrifices of the few men who unselfishly wrought, out of nothing, the University of California Hospital. First a body of laymen—the Regents—had to be convinced that the modern method of teaching medicine requires a hospital with patients in it. The underlying and cognate sciences may be taught wherever there are good teachers and laboratory facilities; but medicine and surgery must be taught at the bedside and in the operating room. Next, the Regents convinced, probably reluctantly, the hospital itself had to be erected from practically nothing. A building was secured by transferring all the preliminary work to the departments at Berkeley, thus freeing the medical building at the Affiliated Colleges, which was then to be transformed into a hospital. Funds for the transformation were obtained from and by the faculty of the Medical School, and it was soon found that the building adapted itself to hospital purposes remarkably well; better, in fact, than had at first been imagined would be the case. A clear-cut illustration of the altruism of our profession, this giving by the faculty of their time, their work, their brains and their money for what could profit them nothing, but for what they knew to be right. Now consider the newly opened German Hospital; a magnificent building equipped from top to bottom with everything that a hospital should have—and remember that every stick and stone of it, every least or greatest thing in it, has been paid for by money taken from the pockets of the physicians of California. The German Hospital stands a monument to commercialism and greed and professional prostitution. The German General Benevolent Society, starting right and working for the good of the sick or destitute German poor, long since became one of the worst “dollar a month,” medicine at “bargain counter rates” institutions in the United States. The list of the well to do, the rich and the very rich who, for their paltry dollar

a month, have taken advantage of what originated for the aid of the poor, would make a startling showing. The reasonable and honest fees which these dollar-a-month patrons of the German Hospital should have paid to the various physicians of our state, have gone to the building of the German Hospital.

The last regular meeting of the San Joaquin County Medical Society was a notable gathering.

The subject for discussion was “The Proprietary Evil” and it attracted

NOTABLE MEETING. the attention of the members to a marked degree. Elsewhere, the

JOURNAL prints a letter that was sent to every member and a list of questions which was enclosed with the letter. This whole question is one of common sense. Are we, as a profession, to go ignorantly on our way, fooled and lied to by the manufacturer either in regard to the composition of his stuff or as to the wonderfully impossible things it will do? Are we forever to shirk a goodly portion of our duty and disregard the composition of the things we put into our patients? That we can not believe the statements of any single manufacturer in the United States, has been conclusively demonstrated by the revelations of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry. We can not believe the manufacturer, for he wants to sell as much of his stuff as possible. We can safely rely upon the dicta of the Council, for they have no motive save to extract the truth—generally painfully and unwillingly—from the manufacturer. The crux of the whole matter is in the one thing—accept nothing that has not been approved by the Council, unless it be the well known articles in the U. S. P. or National Formulary. The Lord knows there are enough drugs available in those three lists! It would be a very good thing for every County Society in the state to devote one or more evenings to a discussion of this question so that every member could come to a clear understanding of what it means and the harm he is doing by not following the rule to accept nothing not approved by the Council. Of course all the “published-for-profit” medical (?) journals put up a howl at the mere suggestion of this (because they derive their profits from the advertisements of things which the Council has turned down) and they say a lot about using your own judgment; being independent; throwing off the yoke, and trash of that sort that seems to please them. Your own judgment is not worth a tinker’s dam. Your “independence” is merely playing into the hands of the commercial manufacturer. There is no yoke except the yoke of lies that the unscrupulous exploiters have forged and placed upon our necks. Are you a chemist to analyze the stuff put before you and know whether the composition is as claimed? Of course not. Have you the time, the opportunity or the knowledge to investigate the claims made and determine whether or not they are true? Of course not. Then what is it to be? Are you going to place more faith in the manufacturers’ statements than in the findings of a scientific body like the Council? Don’t be foolish. Wake up!